

Summary of 3/26/14 Horizon Hill Park Task Force

- The following staff was present at the meeting; Steve Mader- Superintendent of Parks and Facilities and Gabe Kosarek -Public Works Project Manager. Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg was also in attendance.
- Steve and Gabe reviewed the three options for the extension of the path across the embankment, located near the western ponds. The options were previously presented at the 3/12/14 meeting. The options were as follows:

Base Option - Construct 180 linear feet of path across the top of the embankment in the existing location to the spillway and terminate in a small bulb. Included in base construction costs.

Option 1 - Construct 500 linear feet of 5' wide path with 2' tall stacked block retaining wall (similar to College Gardens wall) and 3 rail split-rail fence; terminate in bulb with bench at the weir between the forebay and the pool: Estimate cost \$125,000

Addition 1A - Construct Option 1 and extend path an additional 200 linear feet (same wall cross section as Option 1), construct 110 linear foot bridge across pond, construct 70 linear feet asphalt path. Estimated cost \$575,000

- The task force discussed all three options; cost of each option, impact of a bridge on neighbors and possibly extending the path beyond the embankment. The task force voted to no longer consider option 1 or 1A.
- Consensus was reached on the following items as a result of discussions and informal votes during the meeting.
 - ✓ The path across the embankment should be similar to the base option presented.
 - ✓ There should be no bridge across the ponds.
 - ✓ The terminus of the path, on the embankment, should be a stamped concrete patio with a low knee wall designed for seating.
 - ✓ Additional benches should be installed on the embankment.
 - ✓ A picnic shelter or gazebo should not be included in the park.
 - ✓ The section of path between N. Commons Way and S Fallsmead Way should be widened to 6'.
 - ✓ Two interpretive signs should be included on the embankment explaining the function of the ponds as well as the forested stream valley to the west.
 - ✓ Lighting in the park should not be considered.
 - ✓ A new picnic table should be installed near the basketball court area. Slope will dictate the location.
 - ✓ All three playgrounds should have the rubberized play surface.
 - ✓ A drinking fountain should not be included.
 - ✓ The asphalt path should not be stamped with distance markings.

- ✓ Two benches should be included between N. Commons Way and S. Fallsmead Way.
 - ✓ Additional trash cans should be included at the active recreational areas adjacent to S Fallsmead. Old trash cans should be replaced with new trash cans
 - ✓ A bench and interpretive sign should be installed at the ponds off of Longhill Drive.
- Additional information requested by the task force included;
 1. Who owns the forested stream valley west of the embankment and where does the City property end? See the attached photo. Sections below the City property line/boundary belong to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
 2. What can be done to protect the asphalt path in the sections used for maintenance, especially adjacent to the pond? Staff will look into increasing the amount of stone underneath the path and increasing the depth of asphalt in specific locations.
 3. Provide examples of fitness equipment. Examples will be brought to the April 9th meeting.
 4. What will the patio look like? Provide options. Staff will bring several options to the April 9th meeting.
 - Items to still be resolved include:
 1. Whether or not a fitness cluster would be used and what options are available? Staff will bring options to the next meeting.
 2. Final locations of all amenities.
 - Councilmember Feinberg thanked the Task Force for their continued involvement in the project and encouraged them to continue.
 - The next meeting will be on April 9th in the Azalea Room at the Senior Center from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.